

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-39. (Cancelled)

40. (New) A configuration management system comprising:

a unified configuration store that stores unified persisted information associated with an application; and

a configuration service component that manages access to the unified configuration store and converts information associated with an application into unified persisted information

41. (New) The system of claim 40, the information associated with an application is at least one of configuration information or dependency information.

42. (New) The system of claim 40, wherein the configuration service component receives a manifest associated with the application, the manifest comprising at least one of configuration and dependency information associated with the application, and the configuration service component converts and stores at least some of the manifest information in the unified configuration store.

43. (New) The system of claim 42, wherein the manifest is based, at least in part, upon a schema.

44. (New) The system of claim 43, wherein the schema is XML-based.

45. (New) The system of claim 42, wherein the manifest employing at least one of strong typing, validation, and assertions.

46. (New) The system of claim 42, wherein the configuration service component compiles at least one of manifest information into a namespace, the configuration service component providing access to the namespace.
47. (New) The system of claim 40, further comprising a configuration management engine that identifies configuration information within the unified persisted information and facilitates management of at least a portion of the configuration information.
48. (New) The system of claim 40, the configuration service component facilitating access to a legacy store.
49. (New) The system of claim 48, the legacy store comprising a registry.
50. (New) The system of claim 40, the configuration service component facilitating at least one management service.
51. (New) The system of claim 50, the management service comprising at least one of a group policy component and a roaming component.
52. (New) The system of claim 50, the management service facilitating at least one of install, usage, servicing, uninstall, roaming, migration, setup, provisioning, policy, backup and/or restore.
53. (New) The system of claim 40, further comprising an assertion engine that facilitates administration of a validation rule by the configuration service component.
54. (New) The system of claim 40, further comprising a notification handler that provides information associated with a configuration change of the application to at least one of the application and another application.

55. (New) The system of claim 40, further comprising a legacy handler that facilitates synchronization of the system with a legacy store.
56. (New) The system of claim 55, the legacy store comprising a registry.
57. (New) The system of claim 40, wherein the configuration service component facilitates transacted commits for saving related changes together in the unified configuration store.
58. (New) The system of claim 40, wherein the configuration service component employs at least one of ACL-based security and role-based security are provided at per-setting granularity.
59. (New) The system of claim 40, wherein the configuration service component facilitates change logs and history.
60. (New) The system of claim 40, wherein the unified configuration store comprises a joint engine technology database that stores a settings namespace.
61. (New) The system of claim 60, wherein a namespace comprises metadata on settings comprising types, attributes, and user context, the namespace further comprising instance values of the settings.
62. (New) The system of claim 61, wherein at least one of the metadata on the settings and instance values of the settings is stored for each user context.
63. (New) The system of claim 40, wherein at least one of URI and Xpath can access a setting within a namespace as well as in between namespaces.

64. (New) A configuration management system comprising:
a local cache that at least temporarily stores changes to unified persisted information associated with an application; and
a tracking engine that facilitates communication of the changed unified persisted information stored in the local cache to a configuration service component.
65. (New) The system of claim 64, the unified persisted information comprising at least a standardized representation of configuration information.
66. (New) The system of claim 65, the configuration information comprises at least information other than dependency information.
67. (New) A method for facilitating configuration management comprising:
receiving a manifest associated with an application, the manifest comprising at least configuration information and dependency information;
registering the manifest;
processing the manifest to generate unified persisted information from at least one of the configuration information or the dependency information; and
storing at least some of the unified persisted information in a unified configuration store.
68. (New) The method of claim 67, further comprising compiling at least a portion of the unified persisted information into a namespace.
69. (New) A computer readable medium having stored thereon computer executable instructions for carrying out the method of claim 67.

70. (New) A method of facilitating configuration management comprising:
providing a manifest, the manifest associated with configuration information and dependency information of a first application;
processing the manifest to generate unified persistent information associated with an application; and
accessing a configuration setting of an application within the unified persistent information.
71. (New) The method of claim 70 further comprising at least one of the following acts:
identifying settings in a namespace associated with the first application;
defining a name, a type, a description and default value for a setting;
defining other metadata for the setting;
providing a validation rule for the setting;
indicating service applicability for the setting; and,
identifying a dependency using an assertion expression.
72. (New) The method of claim 71, further comprising at least one of the following acts:
accessing a setting associated with the first application; and,
accessing a setting associated with a second application.
73. (New) A computer readable medium having stored thereon computer executable instructions for carrying out the method of claim 70.
74. (New) A computer readable medium storing computer executable components of a configuration management system comprising:
a configuration service component that manages access to a unified configuration store, the configuration service component comprising an assertion engine component and a legacy handler component, wherein the unified configuration store stores unified persisted information associated with an application, the assertion engine component facilitates administration of a validation rule by the configuration service component, and the legacy handler component facilitates synchronization with a legacy store including a registry.

75. (New) A configuration management system comprising:
- means for representing configuration information associated with an application as unified persisted information, the unified persisted information comprising a standardized structure and common attributes for all applications and configuration information;
 - means for storing unified persisted information associated with an application;
 - means for managing access to the means for storing unified persisted information;
 - means for facilitating administration of a validation rule; and
 - means for synchronizing the means for storing unified persisted information with a legacy store including a registry.